December 12, 2019

Mayor Muriel Bowser
OP Director, Andrew Trueblood
Council Chairman Phil Mendelson

Re: Request for extension of time for ANCs to review the Comprehensive Plan

On December 11, 2019, at a duly noticed, regularly scheduled, monthly meeting, with a quorum of six out of six ANC 6C commissioners and the public present, the commissioners voted unanimously to send you the following resolution developed by ANC 4D.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING MORE TIME FOR STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS ON AMENDMENTS TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITYWIDE AND AREA ELEMENTS

Whereas, the Comprehensive Plan is DC law that is a broad framework intended to guide the future land use planning decisions for the District. Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association v. DC Zoning Commission, 182 A.3d1214, 1218 (D.C. 2018);

Whereas, principal purposes of the Comprehensive Plan include defining the requirements and aspirations of District residents, and accordingly influencing social, economic, and physical development, promoting economic growth and jobs for District residents and assisting in the conservation, stabilization, and improvement of each neighborhood and community in the District. D.C. Code §1-306.01;

Whereas, the Comprehensive Plan encompasses two tiers of city planning: (1) Citywide Elements and (2) Area Elements, as well as two maps, the Future Land Use Map (“FLUM”) and Generalized Policy Map (“GPM”) which express public policy on future land uses across the District and divide residential and commercials areas;

Whereas, in 2017, the Office of Planning (OP) opened the process to amend the 2006 Comprehensive Plan without providing an update as to efficacy of the Plan’s policies 12 years in or detailing whether or not existing policies are working, or not, and the reasons therefore;

Whereas, to date, OP and DC Council addressed amendments to the Comp Plan Framework Element, the leading Chapter in the Plan, and the Framework Element was amended by final vote on October 8, 2019;

Whereas, on October 15, 2019, the Office of Planning published proposed amendments to the 13 Citywide Elements and 10 Area Elements totaling more than 1500 pages of proposed changes as well as nearly 200 proposed changes to the FLUM and GPM maps. The proposed amendments make major changes to the existing elements, striking out large portions of text and adding large portions of new text;
Whereas, OP has allowed the public a 65-day review period that began on October 15 to comment on proposed amendments. OP has instructed residents to send their comments to their Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to which OP provided an additional 35-day review period to end on January 31, 2020. Six weeks of the view period falls within the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other religious holidays;

Whereas, DC Council Chairman Mendelson recently stated that Council will not consider these proposed amendments until after passage of the District FY2021 budget sometime after June, 2020; and

Whereas, the more than 1500-page proposed amendments to the Citywide and Area Elements are complex documents which will require serious time commitment by residents, ANC’s, and other stakeholders to fully understand their impact on residents, neighborhoods, and their communities in order to provide robust feedback,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6C:

1. Requests the Mayor and D.C. Office of Planning (OP) extend the time for reasoned and informed public and ANC comment on the Area and Citywide Elements by at least 180 days, and broadly announce that the extended public comment period will now end on, or after, April 30, 2020.

2. Requests the D.C. City Council make an official recommendation to the Mayor and D.C. Office of Planning that the public be given this additional time to consider, comment, and notify OP of their comments on the proposed changes to the Citywide and Area Elements so that OP may provide the appropriate data and information to make informed transparent decisions pursuant to D.C. Code § 1–306, et. seq.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of ANC 6C.

On behalf of ANC 6C,

Karen Wirt
ANC 6C chair